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The moment that changed a movement

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Winnipeg metro

Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

High 23°C /Low 16°C Scattered thunderstorms

LAST CALL FOR OLD SCHOOL BACHELOR PARTIES

metroLIFE

Gatherers meet in Civic Park to attend a vigil for Thelma Krull on Monday evening, the one-year anniversary of her disappearance.
DAVID LIPNOWSKI/FOR METRO

A PLEA FOR ANSWERS

Police raise possibility of foul play as family renews call to find Thelma Krull metroNEWS

Integrity with 'teeth'

CITY HALL

Province needs to change rules for commissioner to have full authority

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

The City of Winnipeg may finally introduce an integrity commissioner into city hall, but one councillor believes it's still up to the province to give that person the "teeth" they need to hold elected officials to account.

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry) said it's important that after some eight years of discussions, that position will at last be appointed.

But in order for that role to carry full investigative and discipline powers, the province must grant officials the authority to amend the City of Winnipeg Charter to make those changes, she said.

"We need to have those discussions with the province, we need the provincial support to make this really effective the way it needs to be, I believe," Gerbasi said.

"It's those two aspects of having consequences spelled out that can be taken if necessary. Right now there's no consequences, and there's no investigative powers and those are the things that are needed for (the role) to have teeth."

According to Mayor Brian Bowman, a commitment was made by the previous New Democrat government to allow for the charter changes.

He said there is no word yet on what Premier Brian Pallister's new Tories intend to do.

"We'll wait to hear from our new provincial partners, but they haven't indicated either way," Bowman said Monday.

A spokesperson from the Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations did not respond to Metro's request for comment by deadline.

Gerbasi said with a new provincial government at the helm, she wants that previous promise reaffirmed.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

David Cameron sings his last tune as Theresa May prepares to become U.K. prime minister. **World**

City looks at boosting number of rooming house inspections

BYLAWS

Week after fire takes two lives, councillors seek reforms

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

A fatal North End was no doubt on the minds of Winnipeg councillors as a city committee approved a request for increased inspections on rooming houses.

Monday's committee on protection, community services and parks directed bylaw enforcement manager Winston Yee to return in about three months time with a plan that would see bylaw compliance inspections happen annually, ideally in concert with fire inspections.

Yee said it's a reasonable request he should be able to deliver on, "it's just a matter of being able to research and identify what resources are available."

Currently, bylaw officers do between 15,000 and 16,000 inspections annually, which Yee said results in close to 30,000 investigations.

There are "just over 600" houses most Winnipeggers would consider "rooming houses," and 176 rooming houses with shared facilities, but the majority of those properties fall under various definitions, including single family houses that have been converted into three or more units.

Councillors Ross Eadie (Mynarksi) and Janice Lukes (St. Norbert) moved for more frequent inspections in April.

That was before a fire claimed two lives in a recent rooming house fire on Austin Street, which is a tragedy police are investigating as a homicide.

Fire inspectors hadn't been to the rooming house since February 2014.

Sel Burrows, who spoke on behalf of the Point Douglas Residents Committee Monday, said he was "very angry" to learn that rooming houses aren't getting annual fire inspections.

He said the motion the committee supported would do a lot to improve the quality of life for the people living in rooming houses, but said "the minimum standard should be an annual fire inspection."

"We know now they are not doing that," Burrows said. "They need to immediately — immediately — have annual fire inspections."

Janet Bier, director of fire prevention for the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service, clarified the fire inspections of rooming houses "are not legislated or mandated either by the province or by the city."

Advocates hope that a motion approved Monday could see increased bylaw compliance inspections that align with fire inspection. BRAEDEN JONES/ METRO

She said after media attention last year brought the issue to light, the fire service decided to "start scheduling all of the rooming houses" for inspections.

"We were able to complete 557 licensed inspections (on rooming houses) last year," she said. That number fell short of the 645 buildings they'd have liked to have inspected.

The motion passed Monday doesn't deal with the fire safety side necessarily, but Burrows believes there is more that can be done to improve quality of life in the rooming houses through bylaw enforcement.

Issues like working locks on bedroom and bathroom doors, and sanitary fixtures often crop up, but people living in them seldom report issues.

"One of the tragedies of people who live in rooming houses is most of them feel very powerless, they don't know the system," he said.

"They don't make complaints."

> **One of the tragedies of people who live in rooming houses is most of them feel very powerless, they don't know the system.** Sel Burrows, Point Douglas Residents Committee

RECREATION

Volunteer park seeks $60K grant to operate

The city's parks committee has recommended council grant the Buhler Recreation Park a $30,000 operating grant, but that's not what the volunteers who run the park say they need.

"Well $60,000 would give us financial certainty, we'd want that until we become self-sufficient," said facility manager Steve Mymko.

"And $30,000... gives us $30,0000 to pay bills. If that's how the city values it at, that's what we have to take it at."

Mymko explained operating costs are higher than the city expected when it turned park control over to his group in 2008.

"The business plan (with the city's input) said it would be about $330,000 a year to run the place... the reality is about $660,000," he said.

To survive, the Buhler Recreation Park has had to raise rental fees, rely on support from nearby businesses, and charge a gate fee — then increase the gate fee.

Mymko said he can't imagine a hockey rink charging $3 for hockey parents to see their kids play, but at Buhler Park that's what baseball supporters pay at the gate.

Since 2003, the City of Winnipeg has put approximately $1.3 million into the development and operation of the park, including — for the past seven years — the $60,000 operating grant Mymko wants renewed.

He said if council supports the $30,000 grant, he'll gladly work with that and the park will "live to fight another day," but the headache of dealing with the city is growing.

"And who are we operating this (park) on behalf of? The City of Winnipeg," he said.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

> **We'd want that until we become self-sufficient.**
> Steve Mymko
> Facility Manager

ATTRACTIONS

Old Market Square may include ice rink in winter

Imagine skating here in the winter. BRAEDEN JONES/ FOR METRO

Old Market Square could be poised to become a year-round attraction.

At the request of the Exchange District Business Improvement Zone (BIZ), the city's parks and community services committee meeting ordered administration to evaluate the potential costs associated with opening an ice-rink near the CUBE stage.

In his request, BIZ executive director Brian Timmerman suggested the square is "one of the busiest outdoor spaces" during the summer.

He went on to say, "sadly programming of any kind in Old Market Square during the other nine months drops off and is essentially non-existent."

Timmerman proposed a New York-style Rockefeller Centre ice rink be established in the space for skating and curling events, and he proposed year-round CUBE stage programming.

He added city funding would be needed to make that vision a reality.

The committee did order the feasibility study, but not all members were sold on whether the city should fund the plan.

They noted other BIZ's would expect similar plans be supported in their areas.

Coun. Russ Wyatt said because the city doesn't grant any BIZ funding directly, "it would have to be a program set up" to fund similar projects.

Last winter, the Transcona BIZ opened a skating rink at Centennial Square without extra help from the city.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

New evidence in Krull case: Police

MISSING PERSON

Abduction or medical distress are likely, say investigators

Shane Gibson
For Metro | Winnipeg

Police laid out two distinctly different scenarios Monday for what they believe happened to Thelma Krull, one year to the day since the Winnipeg grandmother seemingly vanished without a trace.

Homicide detective and lead investigator on the file Sgt. Wes Rommel said police are still calling it a missing persons case.

Rommel told reporters investigators think Krull either suffered a medical incident which led somehow to her disappearance, or the 57-year-old was abducted.

This is the first time police have said publicly foul play may be involved in the case.

"What we know based on this investigation is that she experienced distress... we believe there's two primary means or causes of that distress: one potentially is a medical condition that she suffered that day, second is possibly an encounter with an unknown person who removes her," he said, noting if Krull was abducted, police believe she would have been chosen at random.

Sgt. Wes Rommel urges anyone with information about Krull's disappearance to come forward to police. SHANE GIBSON/FOR METRO

"Those two scenarios are the most consistent with the evidence we've gathered to date."

Krull was last seen alive July 11, 2015, when she left her home on Filbert Crescent in Harbourview South around 7:20 a.m.

Police believe whatever caused her to disappear — either a medical incident or abduction — happened 40 minutes later as she walked through nearby Civic Park.

That's where investigators had previously told media they found her glasses.

Rommel confirmed police also recovered her cell phone in the area at the same time.

He said evidence has been gathered from the cell phone, and while he wouldn't elaborate on what clues it may have provided, he called it an "extremely valuable source of information".

He also said Krull's glasses appear to have gone through some sort of "distress".

Winnipeg police are asking for the public's help identifying this woman who was seen on surveillance video in the area of where Thelma Krull went missing. POLICE HANDOUT

"The fact that her glasses remained... This isn't something that's normal," said Rommel. "You wouldn't walk around and your glasses fall off and just keep going."

Police have received over 240 tips from the public over the last year and asked for further help Monday identifying an older woman in a purple tank top seen in surveillance camera photos walking near where Krull disappeared.

They're also hoping to hear from a man and woman described only as Caucasian and in their 30s who were also seen talking near the yellow gate at the park entrance at Kimberley Avenue. Police believe they may be able to help with the investigation.

"We still believe that someone out there has a critical piece of information that is needed to advance this investigation," said Rommel. "If you have a suspicion or a gut feeling about someone who lives in, works in, or is somehow associated to this area we want to hear about that."

Anyone with information is asked call investigators at 204-986-6508 or Winnipeg Crime Stoppers at 204-786-TIPS.

'There's been no closure for our family'

After thanking everyone who's helped in the search for Thelma Krull, Robert Krull had one simple message a year to the day after his wife left for a morning walk and never came home.

"The only thing I want to say is please, someone help us," said Krull quietly in front of the cameras and reporters gathered in the Winnipeg police press room Monday for an update on the search for the 57-year-old grandmother. "Help bring Thelma home."

Krull's daughter Lisa Besser said the hardest thing about the last year has been not knowing whether their mother, grandmother, and wife will ever be at another birthday party, Christmas, or family event.

"A year ago our lives were completely turned around and changed," she said.

"A whole year has passed and we still have no idea what happened or why.

"It's extremely hard not knowing—not knowing if she's coming home again or never again."

The family is echoing calls from police for anyone with information about what happened to Krull to call investigators.

"People don't just disappear," said Besser.

"I think it's impossible that there's absolutely nobody out there who can tell us what happened. "We just want answers and whoever you are just please let us know."

Robert Krull, husband of missing Winnipeg grandmother Thelma Krull, speaks to media Monday while his daughter Lisa Besser listens behind him. SHANE GIBSON/FOR METRO

Thelma Krull POLICE HANDOUT

DESCRIPTION

Thelma Krull is white, 5'4" tall, 170 lbs. With short dyed blonde hair with a purple streak. She was last seen wearing a brightly coloured reddish-orange t-shirt, three-quarter length Capri style pants, a black fanny pack, and tan/brown hiking style boots/shoes.

Heavy rains lead to opening — and closing — of Riverwalk

RAINFALL

Section along the Red River may not open at all this year

Shane Gibson
For Metro | Winnipeg

It's been an up and down year for the riverwalk along the Red and Assiniboine rivers.

Heavy rainfall in Southern Manitoba and parts of Saskatchewan have left water levels yo-yoing in the two rivers, forcing The Forks to close its section of walkway a couple times this summer, and Parks Canada to postpone the opening of their section along the Red River while crews deal with debris left behind by the high water.

"Our section has gone under at least two other times since the initial spring let up," said Kristen Pauls from The Forks, which originally opened their section of the walkway in late May.

"The flooding that's happened out in the western side of the province and also the excess water that's in Saskatchewan is all getting pumped down the Assiniboine which creates the higher-than-normal water levels."

While the walkway runs seamlessly along the Assiniboine River from the Osborne Street Bridge to The Forks and then along the Red River from The Forks to the Esplanade Riel Bridge, it's actually split up and maintained by three separate bodies.

The section of the riverwalk along the Red River may not officially open this summer due to high water levels, according to Parks Canada. SHANE GIBSON/FOR METRO

> **Our section has gone under at least two other times since the initial spring let up.**
> Kristen Pauls

The most eastern section between the Legislative Building and the Main Street Bridge is maintained by the City of Winnipeg, the stretch by the docks at The Forks is maintained by The Forks North Portage Partnership, and the section along the Red River is maintained and operated by Parks Canada.

Pauls tells Metro The Forks was able to get their piece of the path open again in time for Canada Day, and the City of Winnipeg is hoping to have their portion back in operation as early as Tuesday this week after crews were kept busy washing a "heavy accumulation of sludge" from the section.

As for Parks Canada they couldn't say exactly when—or if—their section will open this year.

"The portion of the riverwalk that runs through the Forks National Historic Site has recently been closed due to heavy rainfall in southern Manitoba and the Red River watershed," said Parks Canada spokesperson Jodi Duhard in an email.

NEW JERSEY

Tax stalemate leaves New Flyer in tough spot

A Winnipeg-based bus manufacturer says an order from New Jersey's transit system has been put on hold following a state of emergency declared by Gov. Chris Christie due to funding problems.

New Flyer Industries says its MCI subsidiary had received approval in May for the delivery of 142 motor coaches this year — part of an order for up to about 1,200 buses over six years.

But funding for New Jersey's transit projects dried up after Democratic leaders in the state senate refused to support a deal on gasoline and sales taxes that had been reached by the Democrat-led state assembly and the Christie administration.

The Republican governor later declared a state of emergency and last week released a list of transportation projects that would be shut down across the state for at least seven days.

New Flyer says it's working to understand the impact of New Jersey's funding disruption on Motor Coach International.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A conductor stands in a NJ Transit train. GETTY IMAGES

OLYMPICS

Two locals heading to Rio

At least two Winnipeg athletes have earned a spot to compete in the 2016 Rio Olympics. On Monday, the Canadian Olympic Committee and Athletics Canada published the names of 65 athletes who are nominated to represent Team Canada in next month's games.

Of the athletes chosen were Erin Teschuk and Nicole Sifuentes, both from Winnipeg. Teschuk will compete in the 3000m steeplechase, and Sifuentes will race in the 1500m event. Jared MacLeod has also been chosen to head to Rio as a team manager.

Around 315 athletes are expected to represent Canada in Rio. STAFF/METRO

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IMMIGRATION

Going home was one refugee's big mistake

Sometimes, going home can have terrible consequences.

Afghan native Obaidullah Siddiqui learned that the hard way when the former refugee was stripped of his right to stay in Canada because he made the mistake of going back — three times — to his war-torn homeland to visit his aging parents.

After living in exile in Pakistan for two decades, Siddiqui and his family were resettled to Canada as permanent residents by a private sponsorship group in January 2011.

But as his marriage started to crumble amid the chaos of the resettlement, the 49-year-old Surrey, B.C. man said he took three separate trips back home — two accompanied by his children — to visit his parents in Herat and to get their help in saving his marriage.

In November 2013, immigration officials initiated what is known as a "cessation application" and later stripped Siddiqui's permanent resident status on the grounds "he was found to have re-availed himself of Afghanistan's protection" and his life would no longer be in danger there.

As a result, Siddiqui became the first case where a sponsored refugee arriving as a permanent resident was stripped of his status, and faced removal under changes the Tories introduced in 2012 to immigration laws to make losing permanent residence automatic in such circumstances, with no discretion.

"This has broken me. I am going through extremely hard times mentally, emotionally and psychologically. I am being separated from my three lovely children and I am facing an ambiguous future," said Siddiqui, who fled Afghanistan for Pakistan in 1987 before he came here.

"Imagine living with no status, no permission to work, not being able to be with your children and having nowhere to go."

The number of cessation applications by immigration has skyrocketed from 30 in 2012 to 256 in 2015. Although officials targeted former refugees who were granted asylum in Canada, resettled refugees such as Syrians who recently arrived are not immune.

With the new Liberal government in power in Ottawa, the opposition New Democrats have brought forward a private member's bill to repeal cessation provisions of the law and suspend these cases until the legislation is passed.

Siddiqui has taken his case to the Federal Court of Appeal, arguing he should be excluded from cessation proceedings because he arrived as a permanent resident under the humanitarian protected person abroad class, instead of going through a refugee determination process pleading for Canada's protection.

However, in its recent decision to reject Siddiqui's appeal, the court said there was "no reason why the principle of re-availment and its associated criteria should vary according to the route by which status as a protected person is originally obtained."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Obaidullah Siddiqui fears being separated from his children if he's forced to leave Canada. HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ONTARIO

Immigration detainees on hunger strike: Group

A group advocating for full immigration status for all migrants says more than 50 immigration detainees began refusing food Monday in two Ontario centres.

The End Immigration Detention Network says the detainees are protesting prison conditions that include increasing lockdowns and the use of solitary confinement, and are calling for an end to indefinite detentions in maximum security prisons.

The immigration detainees are asking for a meeting with Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale to discuss their concerns. A spokesman for Goodale says the minister is working on issues related to detention.

Those taking part in the protest are housed at the maximum security Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ont., and the Toronto East Detention Centre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Detained student's family ask for help

BANGLADESH

PM Justin Trudeau urged to intervene in the case

The family of a Toronto university student who was detained after surviving a deadly attack in Bangladesh has asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to intervene in the case of the young man, who is a permanent resident of Canada.

Tahmid Hasib Khan has been in custody in Dhaka since the July 1 attack, in which 20 hostages were killed, mostly foreigners.

The 22-year-old's family doesn't know why he's being held, but they insist Khan has done nothing wrong.

His brother, Talha Khan, who is a Canadian citizen, sent a letter through a lawyer to Trudeau's office on Monday, asking for Ottawa's help in the case.

"It's requesting that they reach out to the government of Bangladesh, to let the government of Bangladesh know that Canada is concerned," said lawyer Marlys Edwardh.

"And (the letter asks) to seek access to this young man so that the conditions of his detention can be monitored and it can be ensured that he is not being held in circumstances that violate international norms."

Global Affairs Canada has said it is monitoring the situation in Bangladesh closely, but a spokeswoman said Monday that "there are limits" to what any country can do for individuals who are not its citizens.

However, Edwardh said that although Khan is not a Canadian citizen, Ottawa does have "a clear discretion" to request consular access to him.

"Tahmid is a young man who has very real Canadian connections," she said.

Khan, an undergraduate student studying global health at the University of Toronto, had travelled to Dhaka to visit family, with plans to go on to Nepal where he was to begin an internship this week. He was meeting friends at an upscale restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone when he got caught up in the 10-hour hostage crisis.

A group of young Bangladeshi men held about 35 hostages over night, killing 20 of them, including 17 foreigners from Japan, Italy and India. Two police officers were also killed in the siege.

Khan was detained after the attack ended, and his family fears authorities may suspect him of being linked to the attackers.

While Khan's father was able to speak with his son twice in the early days of his detention, the family has not been able to reach him for a week, and isn't even sure where he is being held, his brother said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tahmid Hasib Khan, a University of Toronto student who survived a hostage-taking in Bangladesh has been detained by authorities ever since the weekend attack, his family said Wednesday as they called for his immediate release. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **We want to know why he is being held, as a witness, or as a suspect.** Talha Khan, Tahmid's brother

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Canadian astronomers find dwarf planet

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Canadian astronomers have helped make a far-out find some 12 billion km from our sun: a new dwarf planet with an "unusual" 700-year orbit.

Spotted by an international team that includes top researchers in Vancouver and Victoria, it is the largest object in the solar system that Canadians have ever found.

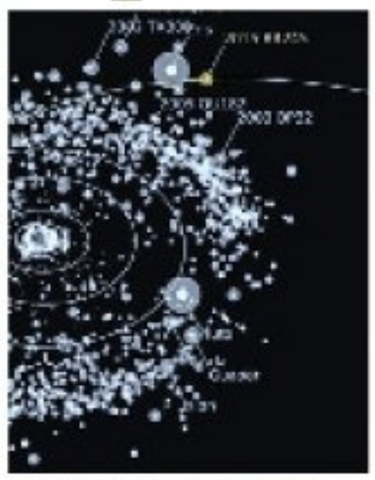
And according to University of British Columbia's Brett Gladman, the crew behind the discovery isn't letting the fact that it's "smallish" get in the way of their excitement — the object's diameter is barely wider than B.C., making it what's known as a "dwarf planet."

"Think of it as a smallish planet," explained Gladman, who holds a Canada Research Chair in planetary astronomy. "It's not quite big enough to be a planet, but it's still an impressive object with enough gravity to pull it into a spherical shape."

First spotted in late February, using five-month-old images from the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope at the top of the volcano island of Maunakea, for now the dwarf is simply named "2015 RR245."

The Outer Solar System Origins Survey researchers found it by comparing very high-resolution photographs taken through the telescope. Computers then scanned for any dots that moved between frames — but it took human observers to sift through the results to make the final call.

However, until more detailed measurements can confirm its size and shape more precisely, technically it's still a "dwarf planet candidate."



The dwarf planet is called "2015 RR245." GETTY MAGES

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ICONIC IMAGE IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS Social media is exploding with reaction to a photograph of the protests in Louisiana over the shooting death of Alton Sterling in a struggle Tuesday with two Baton Rouge police officers. The photo is of a young woman in a flowing dress near the city's police headquarters, the instant before she is arrested by police. She was held in detention for 24 hours.

"Have a feeling we are getting a glimpse of what will be in future history books," one admirer tweeted. PHOTO: JONATHAN BACHMAN/REUTERS; TEXT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Baton Rouge police facing criticism

LOUISIANA

Nearly 200 arrested, but charges still uncertain

Criticism mounted Monday over how Baton Rouge police dealt with throngs of protesters during the weekend, including nearly 200 demonstrators who were arrested and may yet face criminal charges.

The protests have been growing around the country as people express outrage over the recent deaths of two black men at the hands of police in Louisiana and in Minnesota.

East Baton Rouge District Attorney Hillar C. Moore III said Monday his office hasn't made any decisions on charges against the protesters and that it will be done on a case-by-case basis.

"We're going to do as good job as we can, as quickly as we can, to try to go through the (police) reports as they come in," he said.

Moore suggested that "first offenders" and people who may have just "stepped over a line" could have their cases resolved more quickly than those for protesters accused of carrying guns or injuring officers.

> **They are telling us not to be violent, but they are being violent against us.**
> Kristy Carter

But with tensions rising since last week's killings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile in Minnesota by white officers, and an attack on police by a black sniper in Dallas that killed five officers, many have questioned whether the police response has been appropriate.

Kristy Carter said she's been protesting every night since Sterling was killed. She said that officers outside the police station said they don't have a problem as long as protesters don't cross barricades or stop traffic — but that in practice it's different.

"Yesterday evening we were standing here ... and they just started coming and attacking the crowd for no reason," Carter said of police.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana said Monday that Baton Rouge police "used violent, militarized tactics on groups of people who have gathered peacefully in protest of Alton Sterling's killing."

On Sunday, Amnesty International questioned the high number of arrests during Saturday's protests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BREXIT

Britain to get new 'Iron Lady'

Theresa May GETTY IMAGES

Theresa May, 59, is expected to be sworn in as Britain's new prime minister later this week.

Here are three things to know about the woman who is to lead the United Kingdom:

1 "Brexit means Brexit"

She was part of the Remain side in the Brexit debate, although she came under fire for not campaigning hard enough.

She quickly snuffed out any speculation that she'll try to stay inside the EU, saying, "Brexit means Brexit and we will make a success of it."

2 Private person

May prefers not to give out details of her personal life, although she has spoken about some things, such as how she has Type-1 diabetes.

3 Students aren't immigrants

As Home Secretary, May made it clear she thinks too many foreign students don't go home when their visas run out.

"The rules must be enforced," she said. "Students, yes: overstayers, no." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ SO BRITISH

Cameron's tune

British Prime Minister David Cameron told reporters he'd be calling it quits as prime minister by the end of Wednesday. Then he turned his back and walked back into 10 Downing Street in London. As he turned, it seems he began to whistle and sing "Do dooo doooo" to himself.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, July 12, 2016

EMMA TEITEL ON PASSPORTS

Unless you have a debilitating fear of heights, the prospect of getting on a plane is unlikely to keep you up at night. But if you are transgender or gender queer, it might.

Air travel is stressful.

There are passports to mind, forgotten toiletries to stuff last minute into tiny plastic bags, and planes to catch—or miss.

There are glitches in the in-flight entertainment system, crying babies, and — courtesy of the person sitting next to you — inaudible, pungent farts.

But for most of us — and by most of us I mean people whose gender identities match their sex at birth — the stress of air travel is fairly minor.

Unless you have a debilitating fear of heights, or you're a Muslim person wary of racial profiling, the prospect of going to the airport and getting on a plane is unlikely to keep you up at night.

But if you are transgender or gender queer, it might.

In fact, in some cases, it may even prevent you from travelling altogether.

The reason for this is simple. Right now, the gender designations on our nation's passports allow Canadians to identify in only one of two ways — as either "male" or "female."

There is currently no gender-neutral identification option on Canadian passports, meaning that when a transgender or gender non-conforming person goes to the airport with a single-gender passport they can and do face uncomfortable questions and sometimes discrimination from airport staff who are confused by or suspicious of the way they look.

RJ Vandrish, an artist who lives in Toronto, who is gender queer, hasn't left the country since 2011 precisely for this reason. (2011 was when Vandrish transitioned; they use gender-neutral pronouns).

"I don't feel comfortable trying to cross any borders," says Vandrish, "because I don't know how I'm going to read (to airport staff), especially on an international level where gender is perceived differently."

By requiring holders to indicate a gender, passports reveal information that might not be needed. HANDOUT

"Even domestic travel is a little terrifying because I don't know if they're going to let me on the flight or not, because Transport Canada states that I have to look like my sex."

Vandrish's anxiety about this isn't unwarranted.

"I get referred to as 'oh sir–um oh, ma'am' and the person is very confused," they say. "Or I get looks when I use the washroom. Those experiences tell me that I'm not going to have an easy time traveling with a male or female passport."

Vandrish isn't alone either; according to Marcella Daye, Acting Manager of Policy at the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the passport problem is top of mind for several transgender and gender non-conforming Canadians whom the organization consulted.

"When a person changes their gender they have to go through a challenging process of changing every single one of their IDs, which is time consuming and costly," says Daye. "While they are in the middle of it, they might be carrying ID's with different genders."

In other words, if your driver's licence says you're male and your passport says you're female, accessing services that require two pieces of government issued ID can be make for awkward and potentially discriminatory results.

Luckily there is an easy solution to this problem—one adopted by seven other nations, including Australia, Bangladesh, Germany and New Zealand; a solution approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization (to which Canada adheres).

It's the called the third gender option: citizens who select it don't have to identify as male or female—instead, their passports will be marked with an "X."

Unfortunately there is a downside that makes the option unpopular with some.

That downside is the possibility that those who choose the X option will be easily "outed" as transgender or gender queer by airport officials.

Some gender non-conforming people, says Daye, would rather take their chances with a conventional passport than run the risk of outing themselves to the world.

They prefer the conventional passport (imperfect as it is) to the one that would single them out.

But in the absence of a better solution (perhaps in the future, we can remove gender altogether from passports) the X option is the safest and the most fair that we've got. For those concerned about security, passports are full of other ways to confirm identity—from height to a photograph.

"Gender is rarely needed to deliver a service to a person," says Daye. Neither is religion — once common on identification cards and travel documents.

"We used to use race and religion to identify people and we don't anymore," says Daye. It's our hope that gender will come under the same scrutiny."

It's my hope too.

Because when transgender and gender non-conforming people go to the airport, the anxiety inducing question on their minds shouldn't be "what will they say when I flash my passport," but "where the hell did I put it?"

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star.

Passports are full of other ways to confirm identity — from height to a photograph

Pothole politicking wastes time and money

YOUR RIDE
Colin Fast

Only government could find a way to overpay on sale prices.

But, unfortunately, that's what's happening with the city's latest plan to speed up road repairs.

First, the good news. City council is poised to approve a plan to advance $8 million from next year's budget to take advantage of lower than expected prices on road repair. As long as the extra demand doesn't cause construction rates to rise correspondingly, that's smart shopping.

But then it's going to carve that money up into 15 pieces so every councillor can claim to be doing their part to fix the road network. While that might make for good politics, it's an inefficient way to manage a budget.

Preparing a construction site takes time and money to do the engineering, arrange for road closures, deal with city paperwork, and assemble the machines, materials and manpower required to finish the job.

Rather than minimize these ancillary costs by focusing rehab efforts on a few major stretches at one time, we'll have 15 separate construction sites spread throughout the city.

The net result is that more money gets spent on administrative and staging costs, and less on actually fixing the damn roads. But, hey, every councillor gets to claim a victory for their ward, so they all win, right?

Unfortunately, this isn't a one-time practice. Every year the civic administration sits down with city councillors to review a list of proposed road projects and to make changes if they're politically expedient.

But councillors shouldn't be micromanaging this process based on angry phone calls from drivers. Their job is to establish funding levels for road repair and set policy on how the money should be spent, not to examine pavement conditions and decide where asphalt will be poured.

An effective asset management strategy would consider the conditions of all roads and direct funding based on value for money, not ward politics. Some years it might make more sense to have a surge of construction activity in just a few wards rather than spreading it across the city. And it might be better to let some older streets crumble entirely and be rebuilt rather than getting temporary patches every few years to appease area residents.

So while the city should be praised for recognizing a savings opportunity, its execution on the concept should focus more on filling the cracks in the road than filling lines in councillor newsletters.

Colin Fast is a communications specialist and freelance journalist in Winnipeg. Find him @policyfrog on Twitter

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metro LIFE

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Solange Knowles joined protesters marching the streets of Baton Rouge this weekend

Siblings on the sidelines

Right: Sara Selthofer and daughter Menka sneak away to the playground during one of her brother Alex's games. **When youth sports get serious, non-sporty siblings often have to tag along whether they like it or not.** CONTRIBUTED

FAMILY LIFE

How parents deal when only one kid is in elite sports

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

For as long as she can remember, many of nine-year-old Menka Stojcevski's summer weekends have been the same. She either sits on the sidelines watching a baseball or golf game, or kills time at a nearby park, sometimes with other non-sporty siblings of young athletes.

"There was this one like three-hour game of baseball and I was getting really hot. After a while I get bored of watching," she says.

Menka's brother Alex, 12, plays baseball and golf in the summer and rep hockey from August to April. All year long, he has practices and games at least a couple of times per week, more during hockey season, plus weekend tournaments out of town and three-hour-plus drives from their home in Windsor, Ont. to away games.

Alex is in house-league baseball this season, but he's such a strong player that he keeps getting asked to tournaments.

Menka, on the other hand, is more academically inclined. She likes to read, and has tried out horseback riding, gymnastics, dance and hockey at a recreational level, but nothing requiring anything the type of commitment Alex's sports take.

Their mother, Sara Selthofer, like so many parents, struggles to balance Alex's sports — and the travelling, money and family time they require — with the needs of her other child.

"It's a tough thing," says Katherine Tamminen, a sport psychology professor at York University. "Sometimes siblings do feel neglected."

Elite sports may gobble up time, but they don't have to monopolize parents' attention or "dominate the entire family conversation," Tamminen said.

"Our schedule has basically been around Alex since he was seven," Selthofer says. "It's a daily battle for me. I do feel like I spend a lot more time with Alex. You get caught up in it ... because you're very proud of your athletic child. And Menka's very easygoing and content. (We) almost take advantage of that."

It's painful, because Selthofer loves watching and knows Alex wants both parents cheering him on, but lately they've been splitting up the family more: Her husband Adam takes Alex to his game or practice while Menka and her mom stay home or explore the town they're visiting.

And when she sees Menka fading during a game, they go to the mall, or out for ice cream, or head to the hotel pool.

"I can just tell she's had it," Selthofer says. "For her to sit through three ball games in one day is not fun. It's great if there are other siblings, if she has a friend she can play with. But sometimes that doesn't work out."

"I'm proud of Alex that he goes through all this hard work in hockey and baseball and all the other sports," Menka says, confessing, at the same time, that she'd usually rather do something other than watch a game.

Over the years, Menka has collected some wisdom about how to make the best of being a sports sibling: "Make sure to plan what you're going to do, and don't be shy to make new friends, because if you don't make new friends it's going to be boring."

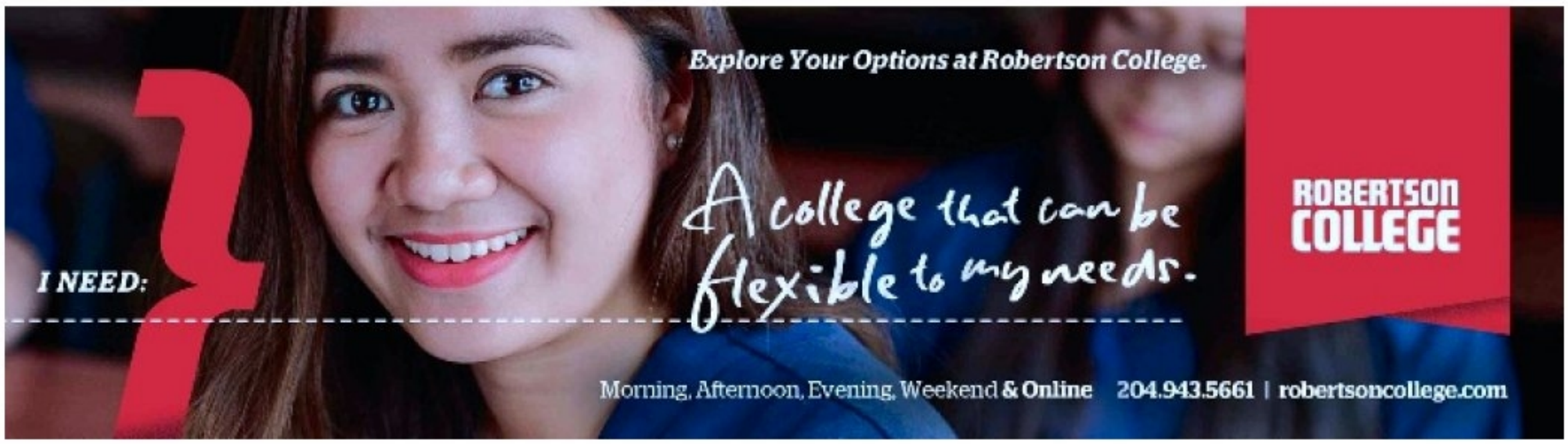
EXPERT ADVICE

Tips for parents from Dany MacDonald, UPEI sports psychologist

Provide choices
Decisions help kids "feel invested," MacDonald says. He suggests letting siblings choose their spirit wear for the game, pick where they'll sit and make up a chant to cheer their brother or sister on.

Be realistic
Parents need to remember odds are around 1 in 10,000 that a young player will become a pro athlete — even though 30 to 40 per cent of parents believe their kid has what it takes.

Make fun priority one
Above all, parents should remember sports are ultimately about fun, especially for younger kids. Kids get the same social and fitness benefits from sampling many sports as they can from elite-level training in one.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Goodbye bachelor party benders

EVENT PLANNING

Skydiving and bike tours are replacing strip clubs, casinos

For Jarrett Ehler, the perfect bachelor party was not a night of drunken debauchery. There were no strip clubs, casinos or limousines.

Instead, he and 11 close friends played golf, ate steaks, sipped beers and talked around a campfire during a getaway at Sherwood Golf and Country Club in Chester, N.S., in early June.

"I wanted it to be about having my friends together and having a good time with them," said the 27-year-old Ehler, who is from Prince Edward Island but lives in Toronto.

"I didn't want it to be a typical city event where everyone is going in different directions and you get so absolutely hammered that you don't even have any meaningful conversations."

Industry experts say Ehler's experience is becoming the new normal. Bachelor parties in Canada are moving away from the traditional night of vice, with many grooms opting instead for experience-based celebrations that run the gamut from beer tasting to bike tours.

Dan Brennan, CEO of the Ottawa-based Breakaway Experiences Inc., said he often caters to the thrill-seeking groom. He said bachelors nowadays are looking for a full-day or weekend-long experience, with some opting to tick boxes off their bucket lists.

"It's often not just about partying in bars and drinking anymore. It's turning into a full experience," said Brennan, adding that his company offers a range of bachelor party experiences including skydiving and stunt car driving.

"More and more, bachelor parties are becoming an event. They want to do something that they're going to remember — something unique and fun."

> It's often not just about partying in bars and drinking anymore. It's turning into a full experience.
> Dan Brennan, Breakaway Experiences Inc CEO

Oren Bornstein, owner of the bachelor party planning company Connected Montreal, said many contemporary couples are getting married at an older age than their parents did.

He said those grooms are more likely to crave a weekend away from the daily grind rather than a one-night bender.

"People are getting married later on in life and there's less and less chances for guys and their buddies to go on vacation with just each other," said Bornstein. "So ironically, it's becoming less about the bachelor and more just about everyone getting together."

But Bornstein conceded he still plans plenty of parties riddled with immoral self-indulgence: "I think at the end of the day, boys will be boys," he said with a laugh.

Newlywed Matt McGrath wasn't interested in having naked women at his camping stag in coastal Blandford, N.S.

"At the end of the day, I don't live my life like a rap video," said the 31-year-old man with a deep chuckle, adding that his friends planned his party. "(Strippers) don't have any sort of appeal to me. I don't see the entertainment in it and I don't think it's tasteful."

McGrath said he thinks grooms in the 21st century are also becoming more frugal.

"Throwing away your money on visuals — maybe that's not the best way to spend your money or your friend's money when you can grab a couple of beers... and share some stories with the intent of celebrating the life you've created and carved out for yourself," he said.

Ehler agreed, saying he wanted to celebrate his upcoming marriage with his closest friends.

"It's not about a 'last call,"' said Ehler, who is getting married in Digby, N.S., on July 31. "It really is just an opportunity to get everyone together and celebrating the phase of life that you're at." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Friends of Howard An , right, who is getting married in October, exercise before some Axe Throwing action as part of An's bachelor party. EDUARDO LIMA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH TREND

It's time we embraced the nap

It's overwhelming when it hits, the animalistic urge to take a nap.

It usually happens in the afternoon, when cortisol, the hormone that helps us feel awake, continues to dip to low levels after peaking in the morning and after lunch. But most of the time we don't give in to the urge to nap. That's because to nap is to reveal a weakness, says sleep researcher Sara Mednick with the University of California Riverside. "There's such a feeling of shame and guilt around needing to sleep. It's just not accepted in our culture." But the midday nap, many experts say, can help re-energize us, increase productivity and even stave off heart disease.

Mednick's nap lab is known for having tested well-rested people over the course of a day without napping. She examined their energy level and performance on various memory and creativity tasks. Without napping, they deteriorated throughout the day. She bribed them with money, had them rest with their eyes closed to see if their performance improved, but nothing worked. It wasn't until they napped for 60 minutes in the afternoon that not only their energy surged, but their ability to perform simple creative tasks like word associations increased.

Nappers rejoice. Research has found plenty of health benefits associated with siesta. ISTOCK

"Compared to people who've been awake all day, people who nap have fewer attention lapses," Mednick says.

A short 20-minute nap, often referred to as a "power nap," is like pressing the reset button for energy, but it won't have the same impact of a longer nap of 60 to 90 minutes, Mednick says.

In longer naps, a person goes through deeper phases of sleep, called slow wave and rapid eye movement (REM), where the greatest effects will be seen.

Recent studies have shown that napping may be connected to even more dramatic benefits. It has been linked to decreased levels of hypertension, or high blood pressure, according to 2015 research in the Journal of Human Hypertension. In 2007, researchers with the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston found a relationship between midday naps and a decreased prevalence of heart disease. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Ignoring women is so trite

THE SHOW: Marcella, Season 1, Episode 8 (Netflix)
THE MOMENT: The doubting boss

British detective constable Marcella Backland (Anna Friel) and her unit think Matthew may be a serial killer, but they can't put the last pieces together. "Why move Grace's body?" asks Marcella's partner Alex (Charlie Covell).

"That's the last thing Henry (Grace's brother) asked me," Marcella says.

"'Why did Matthew move Grace's body?'" She pauses, thinking. "If Matthew and Henry were like brothers, he would have known about Matthew's back problems. He would have asked how Matthew moved her, not why."

Marcella's boss Rav (Ray Panthaki) shuts her down. "We've got all this evidence," he says. "You've got a guy who's saying why instead of how. No. We focus on Matthew only. Understood?"

Um, no, not understood. Rav knows Marcella is a brilliant cop. For seven episodes, he's seen how right her deductions and instincts are. Yet he's fought her every step of the way, and here, with time running out, he decides to ignore her altogether.

Marcella Backland is a brilliant cop, but for seven episodes her boss has fought her instincts. It's time to retire this plot device, writes Johanna Schneller. CONTRIBUTED

Please, TV writers, retire this plot device, which I call the Medium feint. (Remember Medium, where Patricia Arquette always knew who did it, though her boss made her prove herself week after week?) If you have Medium working for you, don't second-guess her. She's a Medium. Don't create fake drama by not listening to her until it's almost too late. Listen to her! Let her do all the work, while you sit back and collect commendations.

And while we're at it, if you're married to I Dream of Jeannie or Bewitched, let her use her powers to housecleaning.

You'll both be happier.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Javier Acevedo started swimming at the age of 10 months, began competing at seven, and won an Olympic spot at the age of 18, setting a world junior record in backstroke. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family support is key for Rio-bound swimmer

OLYMPICS

Javier Acevedo relies on loved ones as he trains for Rio

Javier Acevedo remembers the exact moment he qualified for the Olympics.

"I remember touching the wall and looking at my family and pointing at them and thinking, 'This is it. I've made it,' " said the 18-year-old Scarborough swimmer, who qualified in April.

"At the end of the day, we hugged it out and all cried together."

Acevedo's familial support network, including his grandparents, parents and two younger sisters, are all joining him in Rio, where he heads at the end of this month to compete in the individual 100-metre backstroke and the 4x100-metre medley relay.

It's family he credits — along with his coaches, teammates and swim club — for getting him there in the first place. They're the ones who put him in water at 10 months old and got him swimming competitively at age 7.

His mom, Catherine Walker-Acevedo, was a swim instructor in her youth, but his dad, Aroldo Acevedo — born in Nicaragua and raised in Toronto — doesn't "really" know how to swim, said Acevedo.

"He thinks he can swim, but we all laugh when he touches water," Acevedo said by phone from his family home in Scarborough, laughing.

But the elder Acevedo is one of his biggest champions.

"He's not putting pressure on me but he's always saying, 'You can do this.' I hear that every day going to practice," he said. "I always feel a little better about myself, a little higher."

As Rio approaches, Acevedo said he feels excited and like he has nothing to lose. It's that attitude — and the mystery of being a relative unknown on the elite-level swim scene — that he thinks helped him secure an Olympic spot in April.

"I knew everything about them and they didn't know much about me," he said of the older, better-known competitors around him.

He qualified for the Olympics that day and set a world junior record in the 100-metre backstroke.

Now, just two weeks after graduating from Neil McNeil High School, he's set his sights on at least two more Olympic runs and studying kinesiology at the University of Georgia, where he's been accepted on a full athletics scholarship.

But first, his Olympic debut.

"I'll be representing more than just my school, my family, my swim club," he said. "I'll be representing the millions of people in Canada, too."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STAYING FIT

Javier's wellness insights

- **Go-to food after workout:** Grilled cheese sandwich and orange juice.
- **Olympics eating plan:** Nutritious foods from around the world — nothing with too much fat.
- **Breakfast:** Hard-boiled eggs, bagel with cream cheese, bacon, chocolate milk.
- **De-stressing:** Hanging out with friends on weekend.
- **Coming to terms with defeat:** I know it's a learning experience. With every defeat I learn something new that I need to work on.

> I remember touching the wall and looking at my family and ... thinking, 'This is it. I've made it.' Javier Acevedo

GOSSIP BRIEF

Taylor Swift tops celeb salary list at $170M

There's no Blank Space in Taylor Swift's bank account.

The singer-songwriter tops Forbes' annual list of the 100 highest-paid celebrities with $170 million.

Swift is ahead of fellow chart-topping pop stars Adele at No. 9 with $80.5 million, Madonna at No. 12 with $76.5 million, Rihanna at No. 13 with $75 million and Katy Perry at No. 63 with $41 million. The Shake It Off crooner's star-studded 1989 World Tour earned more than $200 million last year.

Swift's DJ ex-boyfriend Calvin Harris landed at No. 21 on the magazine's list with $63 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRANSIT TUESDAY
Weekly Transit News Update

SENIORS, GET YOUR PEGGO CARD NOW!

Seniors are the first transit customers to start using peggo, the new electronic fare collection system from Winnipeg Transit. Seniors (65+) can now purchase their re-loadable peggo card in person at any 7-Eleven or Shoppers Drug Mart store, online at WinnipegTransit.com or by calling 311.

Using a peggo card is easy! Simply tap the card directly on the peggo card reader on the farebox, wait for the beep, and go.

Full fare and Youth customers will be able to start using the new peggo fare system starting August 8.

The cost for a peggo card is $5.00, however, for a limited time, customers can receive a $5.00 rebate when they register their peggo card and use it on the bus within 90 days of purchase. Visit winnipegtransit.com or contact 311 for more information. Registering your peggo card provides a number of benefits, including online account management and loss or theft protection.

Customers will have up to 36 fare payment options to choose from, including 24 hour, 3 day, 5 day, 7 day, 14 day, 21 day, 28 day, monthly and annual passes. Winnipeg Transit will continue to offer reduced fares to seniors and students.

There are two types of fares which can be loaded onto peggo cards:

- e-passes – replace paper passes and are valid for an unlimited number of trips during a set number of consecutive days.
- e-cash – replaces paper tickets. Riders can load e-cash onto their peggo cards, which deducts e-cash fares from the card when it is tapped on the farebox. When paying using e-cash, a 75-minute transfer is automatically loaded onto the peggo card so paper transfers are no longer required.

Winnipeg Transit will continue to accept paper passes and tickets while customers transition to the new fare system. Riders will still be able to pay cash fare when boarding.

A comprehensive public outreach and education campaign has been underway since June 10th to help Winnipeg Transit customers adapt to the new fare payment system.

To learn more about peggo, visit winnipegtransit.com or contact 311.

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metro SPORTS

Tens of thousands of people greeted Portugal on arrival in Lisbon on Monday to celebrate Sunday's Euro 2016 victory

Was outline of identity forged in Steeltown?

BOMBERS THIS WEEK

Ed Tait

It's one of those trivia questions that causes Winnipeg Blue Bombers diehards to both flinch and cringe when they hear the answer.

So, brace yourself if you qualify as a diehard …

Q: When was the last time the Bombers won back-to-back games?

A: Way back on July 25 and July 31, 2014, with a pair of road wins, no less, in B.C. and Vancouver that improved the club to 5-1.

And for those of you who are curious but maybe don't have an abacus and a calendar handy, that's a stretch of 32 games without consecutive victories.

We bring this up for discussion as the Bombers, now 1-2, try to follow up last week's solid victory in Hamilton against the Tiger-Cats with another Thursday game against the Grey Cup champion Edmonton Eskimos.

"They've got some guys who can make plays," said Bomber defensive co-ordinator Richie Hall when asked to assess the Eskimo offence. "When you look at the numbers they've put up in the first few weeks of the season, it's been pretty impressive."

Yeah, you could say that.

Edmonton has averaged 38 points in their 1-1 start and with the likes of Mike Reilly, Adarius Bowman, Derel Walker, Chris Getzlaf, Cory Watson, Nate Coehoorn and John White bringing more weapons to their offensive huddle than a Schwarzenegger flick.

But there was hope in the Bombers' defensive effort last week in Steeltown, too. Winnipeg forced six turnovers — four fumbles and two interceptions, both picked off by Maurice Leggett, the first returned for a touchdown — in pitching a defensive gem.

And so the theme this week leading up to the showdown with the champs is can the Bombers do it all over again and win back to back for the first time in almost two years?

"Any time that you get a lot of turnovers, there's a chance to say, 'Hey, we did a good job,'" said Bomber defensive back Julian Posey. "But it doesn't mean anything until we're consistent and that becomes our label, it becomes who we are and our identity.

"You want to be consistent and stay on a constant ascension. Week in, week out we concentrate on coming together and communicating with each other. Last week was just a game where we communicated better and things were clicking for us.

"We've got to make sure that's who we are every week."

That's how it used to be in these parts, where the defence was often the backbone of championship squads and home turf was ferociously protected. And Bomber fans would positively love a change in the storyline or, at the very least, a new answer to a very telling trivia question.

Ed Tait is the Blue Bombers director of content. His columns appear weekly in Metro.

Maurice Leggett starred for the Bombers in Thursday's defence-led win over the Tiger-Cats in Hamilton. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

BOMBERS RING OF HONOUR

Ploen to be feted Thursday

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers will add quarterback Ken Ploen to their Ring of Honour prior to Thursday night's home game against the Edmonton Eskimos. Ploen will be the second player to receive the honour after offensive lineman Chris Walby.

Ploen spent 11 seasons with Winnipeg (1957-67), leading the club to four Grey Cup titles (1958, '59, '61 and '62). Ploen was named the MVP of the 1961 CFL championship contest, his 18-yard TD run on a broken play in overtime clinching the Bombers a 21-14 win over Hamilton at Toronto's CNE Stadium.

Ploen, 81, played collegiately at Iowa and was the MVP of the 1957 Rose Bowl after leading the Hawkeyes past Oregon State 35-19. THE CANADIAN PRESS

8-3-1

Through three weeks of the CFL season, the visiting team has posted an 8-3-1 record. Road teams have outscored their opponents 350-263 for a 13.25 points per game margin of victory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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UFC sold for record $4 billion

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Top promotion sold to WME-IMG for huge windfall

In less than 16 years, the UFC has grown from a money-losing company in a widely reviled sport into a global entertainment property worth $4 billion.

While the UFC and its new owners figure out the company's next steps, Lorenzo and Frank Fertitta are tapping out of mixed martial arts with a remarkable return on a $2-million investment.

The UFC has been sold for approximately $4 billion to a group led by Hollywood entertainment conglomerate WME-IMG, both companies confirmed Monday.

The sale will spectacularly benefit the Fertitta brothers and UFC president Dana White, who first persuaded his wealthy high school buddies to buy the cage fighting promotion in 2001. White also owned nine per cent of the company, and he isn't going anywhere despite his own windfall: he'll remain the boss and public face of the UFC while keeping an ownership stake.

"No other sport compares to UFC," White said. "Our goal has always been to put on the biggest and the best fights for our fans, and to make this the biggest sport in the world. I'm looking forward to working with WME-IMG to continue to take this sport to the next level."

Since their purchase of IMG three years ago, WME co-CEOs Ari Emanuel and Patrick Whitesell have been pursuing properties throughout sports and entertainment ahead of a possible initial public offering. The UFC is their biggest buy yet — and the deal appears to be the largest single financial transaction in the history of sports.

"We're now committed to pursuing new opportunities for UFC and its talented athletes to ensure the sport's continued growth and success on a global scale," Emanuel said.

In their first public comments about the deal, White and the new owners have suggested little will change at first for the promotion. The UFC has a full slate of fights scheduled this year, all building toward its long-awaited debut at Madison Square Garden in November after New York legalized MMA earlier this year.

But the UFC's new financial backing and WME-IMG's marketing dexterity seem certain to lead to even more growth and global prominence for MMA's dominant promotion, which has bought out or eliminated many of its competitors in the sport.

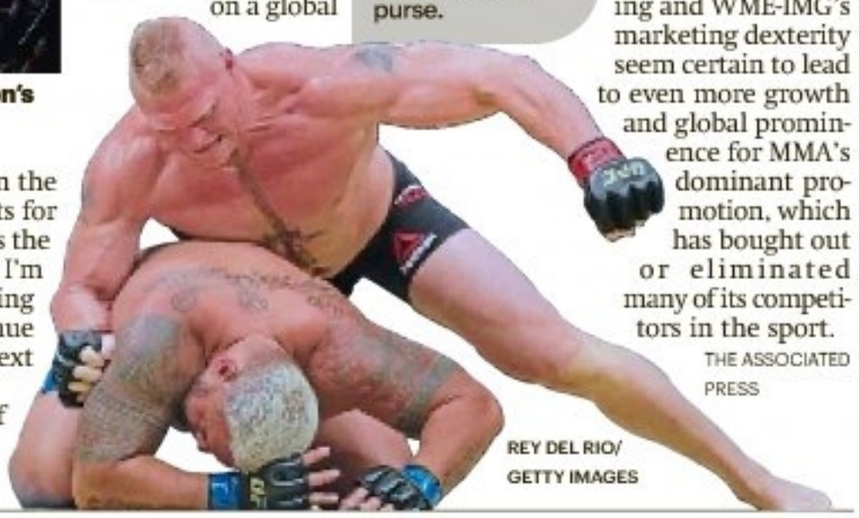
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC 200 in Las Vegas Saturday night was billed as one of the biggest events in the promotion's history. REY DEL RIO/GETTY IMAGES

> **Perfect time to change the revenue split to 46/54 per cent to be equal to the other major sports**
>
> A tweet from featherweight Jeremy Stephens who was among many fighters who took to social media to speculate hopefully about Monday's deal.

$2.5M

Brock Lesnar made a basic purse of $2.5 million US for his win over Mark Hunt at UFC 200 on Saturday night. The payout is a record for a disclosed UFC purse.



REY DEL RIO/ GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Duncan calls it a career

San Antonio Spurs star Tim Duncan is finally calling it a career.

Duncan announced his retirement on Monday after 19 seasons, five championships, two MVP awards, three NBA Finals MVP awards and 15 all-star appearances. "The Big Fundamental" is fifth on the NBA's career list in blocks, sixth in rebounds and 14th in scoring.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ruling on Sharapova's doping ban postponed

A ruling on Maria Sharapova's appeal of her two-year doping ban has been postponed until September, ruling her definitively out of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spieth passes on Olympics

Jordan Spieth withdrew from the Olympics for "health reasons" on Monday, leaving golf without its top four players when the sport returns to the games for the first time since 1904.

Jason Day, Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy previously withdrew, all citing the Zika virus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB ALL-STAR GAME

Nixed trade paying off for Jays and Reds

There would be a shade of irony if both Michael Saunders and Jay Bruce ended up on the same hotel floor, down the hall from each other at the all-star game in San Diego on Tuesday.

Four months ago, they were almost dealt for each other as part of a three-team trade with the Blue Jays, Reds and Angels.

Saunders was on his way to Anaheim in the deal, and Bruce would have replaced him in Toronto as the team's primary left-handed hitting outfielder.

Michael Saunders, top, and Jay Bruce GETTY IMAGES

Health concerns of one of the players involved in the trade scuttled the deal that was widely reported but never completed.

Both players earned an all-star berth last week with their original teams, so the nixed deal has turned out well for both organizations.

Bruce has a .267 batting average this year with 18 home runs and 63 RBI, bouncing back from two subpar seasons. His name has once again popped up in trade talks with the rebuilding Reds.

Bruce is in the final year of a six-year, $51-million contract he signed with the Reds in 2011. The Reds have a $17-million club option for 2017 (with a $1-million buyout).

Saunders worked tremendously long and hard after tearing knee ligaments, simply to get healthy and a shot at reclaiming the left-field position that was his to start the 2015 season. He missed not only the bulk of last year, but the Jays' exciting playoff run.

"I've always said I was glad it (trade) didn't happen," Saunders said Sunday, before boarding a plane to San Diego.

"This year I wanted to be with this team and help it every day. So yeah, I'm glad I have that opportunity."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RECIPE Salmon with Peach Cucumber Salsa

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You can top this sweet and family-friendly salsa on a variety of fish but we're fans of tender salmon.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Ingredients
- 4 or 5 filets of salmon with skin
- 2 cups of peeled, pitted and diced peaches (I used 3 peaches)
- 1 cup unpeeled, diced cucumber
- 3/4 cup diced red pepper
- 1/4 cup washed, finely chopped cilantro
- 4 Tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp of chipotle chiles (adjust depending on how much heat you like) minced

Directions

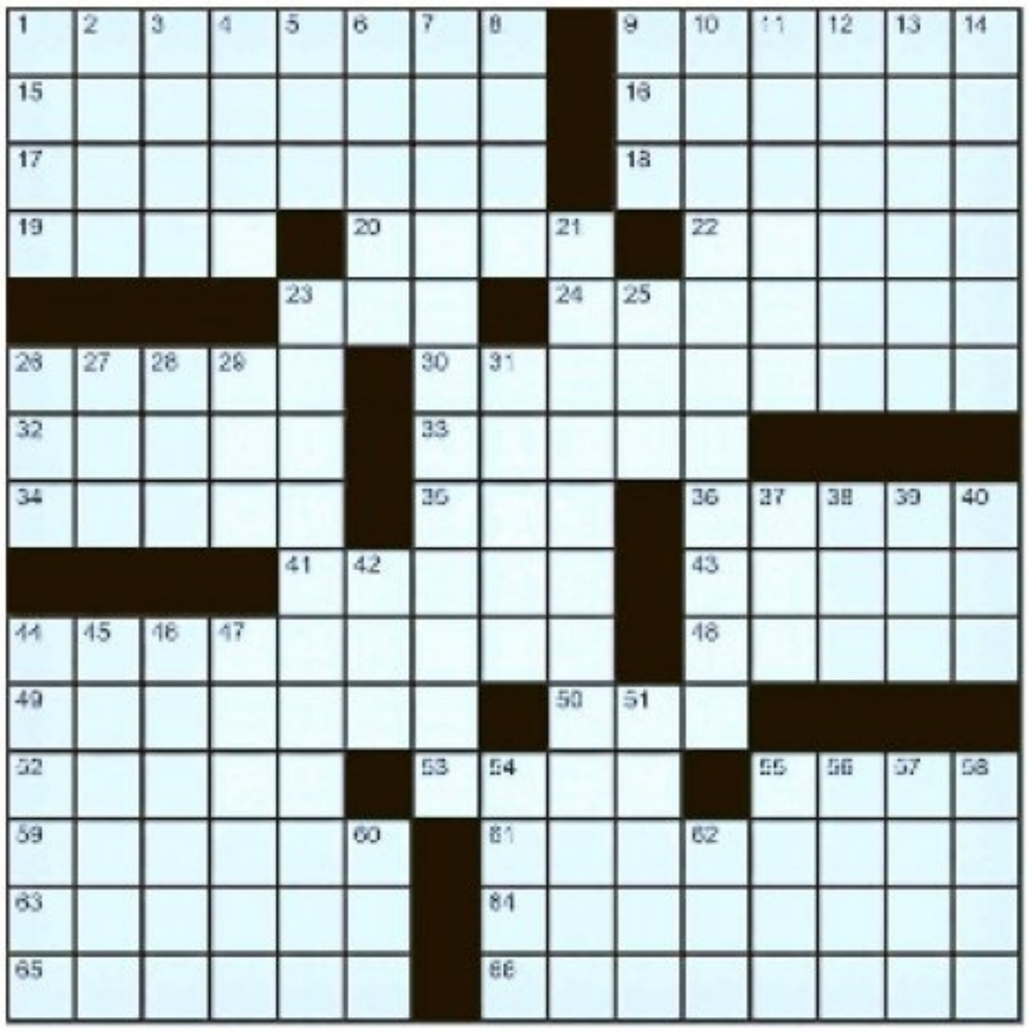
1. Mix all the ingredients for the salsa except the chiles. Separate the amount you think you'll give little kids or those with zero tolerance for heat. Then add your chiles and stir it all together. Taste and check seasoning. Cover and place in the fridge.

2. Wash and pat dry the salmon. Season the fish with salt and pepper and a slick of olive oil on both sides. Place the fish on the grill, skin side down. Leave for 4 to 5 minutes, depending on the size of your filets. Use a thin spatula to flip the fish over. Allow to cook for another 4 to 5 minutes on the flesh side. Serve with a heaping spoon of salsa

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Newfoundland... Village on the Great Northern Peninsula: 2 wds.
9. Three-sided ancient harp
15. Goals reacher
16. Q. "Who is Bruce Willis' daughter who won on 'Dancing with the Stars'?" A. "_ _ believe."
17. Canadian supermodel Monika
18. Take _ _ (Rest)
19. Leaky balloon sounds
20. 'Arthr' suffix
22. "Say _ _ the Dress"
23. "...or _ _ thought."
24. Greek Myth: Hunter turned into a hunted-by-hounds stag
26. Mount _ Hospital, in Toronto
30. Flyers
32. Breezing through
33. Stick out like _ _ thumb
34. Welsh poet Mr. Thomas
35. Calif. NBA team
36. Trash-can-lids-as-instruments theatrical show
41. Actor Alan's
43. Intrepid individual
44. Welder's tool
48. Mosey along
49. Cite: 2 wds.
50. Climbing plant
52. Between: French
53. Supplication
55. Biblical twin
59. Saskatchewan hamlet, it looks like our great nation in a way
61. Hamlet castle setting
63. Cylindrically-shaped
64. Self
65. Town Crier's call!: 2 wds.
66. Once/when: 3 wds.

DOWN
1. Paul McCartney's instrument
2. Abbr. list-enders
3. CFL players, e.g.
4. Also-_ (Runners-up)
5. The Company org.
6. "Blame It _ _" (1984)
7. Nunavut... Mount Thor is so steep that it's known for being the Earth's greatest what?: 2 wds.
8. "Able was I _ _ saw Elba."
9. -La-La lead-in
10. 1967 Rolling Stones hit: 2 wds.
11. Jennifer Lopez hit: 2 wds.
12. "...six _ _-laying..."
13. Speechmaker
14. Certain cameras
21. Canadian author (who grew up in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park) of The Stone Diaries: 2 wds.
23. Be an endorser of 'Ghent' to end the War of 1812: 3 wds.
25. "Proud Mary" gr.
26. Clown face expression
27. Frigid
28. Zippo
29. Santa _, California
31. "The Love Boat" bartender
37. Glasgow topper
38. Eyeball
39. Alice's diner boss
40. Grand-_, Nova Scotia
42. Piece of land
44. Inhalation
45. Temporary money getter
46. Hill _ _ (Ireland's ancient High Kings realm)
47. Mr. Klemperer, Colonel Klink's portrayer on "Hogan's Heroes"
51. Pottery creations
54. Carrie Fisher's royal role
55. 'Within'-meaning prefix
56. "_ _ conclusion..." (Speech-ending phrase)
57. Greek city once called Ambracia
58. Slangy one-eighty turns
60. Bee's follower
62. Ancient veil-giver

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
The next three weeks will be full of opportunities for parties, picnics, sports events and playful times with children. You feel flirtatious and in the mood for fun!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Expect to focus on home and family in the next three weeks. Many of you will attend to home repairs and tackle fun decorating projects. (Sometimes not so fun.)

Gemini May 22 - June 21
In the next three weeks, your daily schedule will be busy! Short trips, errands and discussions with everyone will be upbeat and friendly.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Trust your moneymaking ideas in the next three weeks, because you can boost your income. It's a good time to shop for treasures for yourself and loved ones.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Both Venus and Mercury will move into your sign now, to stay for several weeks. This makes you social, charming and diplomatic. (Yes, everyone loves you.)

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Research and working behind the scenes will go well for you in the next few weeks. If there's something you need to learn or discover, start digging!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The next few weeks will be a social, fun-loving time for you. Enjoy classes, clubs, groups and associations. Expect to hang out with younger, creative people.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs will go well in the next few weeks. Expect someone to ask for your creative input about design, layout, landscaping or webpages.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Travel for pleasure appeals to you now. In the next few weeks, you will have chances to travel, which means you must keep your eyes open and be ready to jump at the first opportunity.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Gifts, goodies and favors from others will come your way in the next three weeks. This is an excellent time to tie up loose ends with inheritances and shared property.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Relations with partners and close friends will improve in the next three weeks, because both Venus and Mercury will be opposite your sign.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will enjoy your job much more in the next three weeks because co-workers will be supportive and friendly. You also might get a raise or, at least, praise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			6		2			
6	5	8				2	4	9
	4		5		7		3	
		3				8		
	1		4		8		9	
3	2	4				1	5	7
			1		4			

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

3	1	6	9	4	2	7	5	8
5	7	4	6	3	8	1	2	9
9	8	2	5	7	1	3	4	6
1	5	3	2	8	9	4	6	7
6	9	8	7	1	4	5	3	2
2	4	7	3	5	6	9	8	1
8	6	1	4	9	3	2	7	5
4	2	5	1	6	7	8	9	3
7	3	9	8	2	5	6	1	4

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